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*Carnahan is a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.*

(WASHINGTON, DC) -- Today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) voted to pass H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA) through the House of Representatives.

**"I am proud this new Congress has authorized WRDA to ensure essential projects receive the funding that is far overdue," Carnahan said. "Projects included in WRDA are vital for Missouri, particularly in my district. Every part of my district is touched by a river, including the Mississippi, the Meramec and the Big River. My district is also affected by the confluence of the Missouri, Illinois and Mississippi Rivers just north of the St. Louis area."**

WRDA authorizes \$13.2 billion for water resources studies and construction projects by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps of Engineers oversees projects such as the creation and maintenance of navigable channels, ecosystem restoration, municipal water and wastewater infrastructure, and disaster relief and recovery.

WRDA has not been authorized since 2000, leaving necessary maintenance and construction projects unfunded. Last year, the House and Senate both passed versions of a WRDA bill, but differences between the chambers were not resolved before the end of the 109th Congress.

**"As a member of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, I have fought on behalf of my constituents to secure our fair share of funding, and am proud that WRDA contains projects imperative to my district," Carnahan said.**

Due to Carnahan's efforts, the following projects are included in the bill:

- **Authorizes \$35 million for combined sewer overflow (CSO) elimination in St. Louis City and County.** CSOs are caused by outdated sewer systems that carry domestic sewage and industrial wastewater. This authorization will allow the Army Corps of Engineers and the Metropolitan Sewer District to continue their work in addressing the CSO problem.
- **Authorizes the reconstruction of the St. Louis Floodwall.** The Great Flood of 1993 exposed serious deficiencies in the St. Louis Floodwall. Without the prompt attention of the Army Corps of Engineers, 3,160 acres of industrial and commercial property - valued at billions of dollars - could have been inundated with water.
- **Authorizes continuation of Great Rivers Greenway in St. Louis City and County.** After the completion of a study by the Secretary of the Army, the Great Rivers Greenway progress will continue. This project includes environmental and aquatic restoration, the construction of bike paths and increased public access to the Mississippi River throughout St. Louis City and County.